

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE

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AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

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FOR IOP/M

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STATE FOR AF/E AND AF/S

NAIROBI FOR VOA CHANCELLOR

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJ: MCHENRY PRESS CONFERENCE ON NAMIBIA

THE FIVE WESTERN COUNTRIES IN THE UNITED NATIONS'S SECURITY COUNCIL BELIEVE "THEY HAVE THE BASIS FOR AN AGREEMENT" TO RESOLVE THE NAMIBIAN PROBLEM.

AMBASSADOR DONALD MCHENRY, DEPUTY CHIEF U.S. REPRESENTATIVE AT THE UN SAID ON ARRIVAL HERE TODAY THAT AS A RESULT OF THE RECENT TALKS HELD WITH SOUTH AFRICA THE FIVE WESTERN COUNTRIES BELIEVE THAT IT IS NOW POSSIBLE TO HAVE WHAT HE TERMED "FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS" IN NAMIBIA.

MR. MCHENRY, SPOKESMAN FOR THE FIVE WESTERN COUNTRIES "CONTACT GROUP," TOLD NEWSMEN THAT HE DID NOT THINK SWAPO, THE SOUTH WEST AFRICAN PEOPLE'S ORGANIZATION, HAD REJECTED THE INITIATIVES OF THE FIVE WESTERN POWERS.

RESPONDING TO A REPORTER'S QUESTION, AMBASSADOR MCHENRY SAID:

"I WOULDN'T SAY THEY HAVE NOT WELCOMED WHAT WE ARE DOING. I THINK THEY HAVE BEEN HESITANT; AND WANT TO SEE WHAT IS GOING ON".

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HE SAID THE FIVE NATIONS HAVE TRIED TO PLAY "AN EXPLORATORY ROLE" IN THE ISSUE TO SEE WHAT BASIS "THERE MIGHT BE" FOR A SETTLEMENT.

"IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS, A SETTLEMENT MUST BE ONE WHICH IS ACCEPTABLE TO THE PRINCIPLE PARTIES CONCERNED, AND THOSE ARE THE NAMIBIANS, AND THE UNITED NATIONS, AND WHETHER ONE LIKES IT OR NOT, THE SOUTH AFRICANS," HE SAID.

THE AMERICAN ENVOY WAS ALSO ASKED ABOUT THE REPORTED SWAPO OBJECTION TO A SOUTH AFRICAN APPOINTED "ADMINISTRATOR-GENERAL" IN NAMIBIA.

HE SAID THERE ARE "OTHER ASPECTS OF THIS QUESTION AND OF THIS PACKAGE" AND THAT THE ROLE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR-GENERAL SHOULD NOT BE LOOKED AT IN ISOLATION.

HE HOWEVER SAID THAT THE ADMINISTRATOR-GENERAL'S ROLE "COULD HAVE THE ADVANTAGE" OF RELIEVING WHAT HE CALLED "ONE OF THE POLITICAL PUSHES AND PULLS IN THE SITUATION" BY PUTTING "A NON-POLITICAL, NEUTRAL" PROFESSIONAL SORT OF INDIVIDUAL IN THAT ROLE IN A TRANSITIONAL PERIOD.

ASKED HOW CLOSE THE CONTACT GROUP WAS TO UNITED NATIONS SUPERVISED FREE ELECTIONS IN NAMIBIA, AMBASSADOR MCHENRY REPLIED THAT THOSE WERE "THE OTHER ASPECTS OF THIS PACKAGE" ADDING THAT HE HESITATED TO GO INTO THOSE ASPECTS.

"BUT I THINK WE DO HAVE THE BASIS FOR AN AGREEMENT. WE HAVE THE BASIS FOR THE MAKINGS OF THE INGREDIENTS OF AN AGREEMENT," HE SAID.

HE AGAIN TERMED LAST WEEK'S MEETINGS WITH SOUTH AFRICAN OFFICIALS AS "CONSTRUCTIVE AND USEFUL".

THE AMBASSADOR STRESSED THAT THE CONTACT GROUP'S BASIS FOR TALKING WITH THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT IS UN RESOLUTION 385 WHICH CALLS FOR ELECTIONS UNDER UN SUPERVISION.

ASKED IF THE GROUP FELT SURE SWAPO WOULD ACCEPT THIS, MR.

MCHENRY REPLIED: "WE'VE COME A LONG WAY AND WE'VE A LONG WAY TO GO AND IT'S GOING TO REQUIRE A LOT OF HARD WORK TO FINALLY RESOLVE THAT ISSUE."

HE WENT ON: "I AM OPTIMISTIC IN THE SENSE THAT THE PROGRESS WHICH WE'VE MADE IN THE LAST FIVE MONTHS, IF YOU COMPARE THAT UNCLASSIFIED

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WITH THE DEADLOCK WHICH HAS BEEN IN EXISTENCE FOR THE LAST 31 YEARS, THEN YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO TELL YOU WHAT'S HAPPENING."

MR. MCHENRY WHO LEAVES FOR HOME TONIGHT, WILL MEET SWAPO AND ZAMBIAN OFFICIALS TO BRIEF THEM ON THE MEETINGS IN CAPE TOWN WITH SOUTH AFRICAN OFFICIALS.

HE HAS ALREADY BEEN TO MOZAMBIQUE AND TO TANZANIA WHERE HE MET EARLIER TODAY WITH PRESIDENT NYERERE. ITEM USIS LUSAKA. BURNS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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